

# Potpourri

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# Lacewing group

These are Green Lacewings, *Chrysopa* genus, which are beneficial insects with the same appetite for aphids as ladybugs. There are dozens of North American species.

The eggs are laid on stalks to protect them from predators including lacewing larva. The photo in the lower right shows how well the lacy wings blend in with veined leaves.



# Beetle group

This may be some sort of click beetle in the *Elateridae* family and perhaps in the *Ampedus* or *Chalcolepidius* genus.



A small beetle posed on the upper garden water barrel.



This Spotted Cucumber Beetle, *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*, was found far from our cucumbers.



This looks like the Pennsylvania Firefly, *Photuris pennsylvanicus*. These prey on insects and other small animals. The larva live in plant debris on ground and overwinter once.



This looks a Common Eastern Firefly, *Photinus pyralis*. Observation of the various flashing patterns of our fireflies at night suggests this is by far the most common firefly species in our yard. This is a beneficial and entertaining insect. The larva prey on insects and other small animals. They live in plant debris on ground and overwinter twice.



The name of this lovely tortoise beetle, the Mottled Tortoise Beetle, *Deloyala guttata*, hardly seems inadequate. The adults overwinter under leaf litter and feed on morning glories. The appearance of this species varies from all golden to all black.

There are over 1,000 tortoise beetle species in North America. We have numerous morning glories growing in our prairie patch, so we expect to see additional species.





# Bug group

This is a ostensibly a native Spined Soldier Bug, *Podisus maculiventris*. However the orange spines on either side of the thorax, the slate blue tipped brown antennae, and the white eggs suggest this may be incorrect.

The Spined Soldier Bug feeds on Colorado Potato Beetle and Gypsy Moth larva.



This is a large stink bug.



This is a medium sized stink bug..





These are Wee Harlequin Bugs, *Cosmopepla bimaculata*. Note antennae with five segments. The small black beetle appears to be a Flea Beetle with green eyes and yellow antennae.





These tiny black critters are probably bugs rather than beetles as first thought. Genus and species still unknown. Possibly *Miridae* family? Note antennae with four segments.



# Damselfly group



This is an unidentified green and black Damselfly. Note those light blue spots behind the eyes.



This is a male Bluet Damselfly, *Enallagma civile*.



This is a female Bluet Damselfly, *Enallagma civile*.





What the Scarlet and Green Leafhopper, *Graphocephala coccinea*, lacks in size, it makes up for in gaudiness. Most of the individuals in our yard have blue in place of green. Leafhoppers are related to Cicadas and have the same washboard texture on the underside of the head.







Most of our leafhoppers are rather nondescript with distinctive patterns. These are apparently all the same species.



These two leafhoppers have similar markings.



These two leafhoppers have different markings.



The bottom two leafhoppers appear to be the same species. The one at the right does not.



This tiny green leafhopper may be an immature version of one of the others.



These are immature grasshoppers. We get several species, but I'm not sure which these are.



In another month, we should have at least several species of katydids calling, especially at night. In early July, they are still immature. Judging from the different head shapes, these are two different species.



We've had many aphids over the years, but the large numbers of beneficial insects keep them in check. The only persistent infestation that remains is on milkweed. Early in the season, the milkweed aphids are black. Later they are yellow. I'm not sure if they are all the same species or not.





The small jumping spiders which also visit the inside of our home are favorites of mine ever since I saw one leap on a gnat.



Although this isn't the largest jumping spider I've seen on our property, it is the showiest.



This small white spider has five prominent depressions in the abdomen.



This small spider appears to be an ant mimic.



This web spider could easily be mistaken a leaf or the leftovers of a spider meal.



This delicate spider has unusually long legs.



This species with four red-banded legs was seen twice, once with a web and once apparently waiting in ambush on a flower.



The web of this high decorated spider was positioned to allow photos from both sides



This spider found on a pepper plant has caught an ant. It assumed this defensive posture when disturbed. This appears to be an Elegant Crab Spider, *Xysticus elegans*. It doesn't use silk to wrap prey or build a web.







This Daddy-long-legs is on a raspberry plant where they sometimes congregate. The second pair of legs are the longest.

